SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5232**

				3				7
2	5			9	1		8	3
			6				4	
		6						
		7	4	1		8		
	4	1	9	6	3	7		
	8	9		4	7			2
3								
				5				6

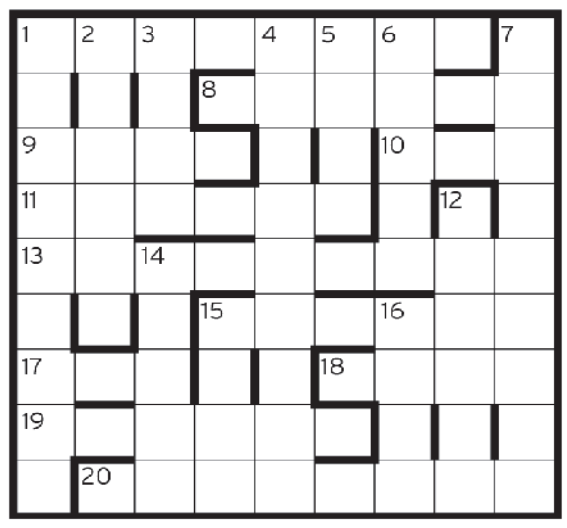
TRICKY **B5232**

				2				
9	1				5			4
	5	6	1					
			6			1		
	6	2	5	9			7	
				4				3
5		9						
1	4				3	7		
	3		9					

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD



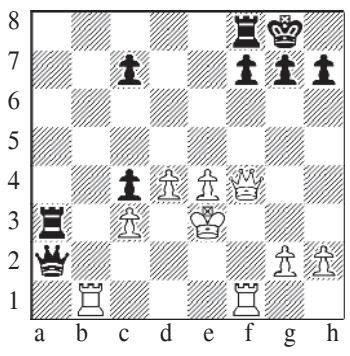
ACROSS

1 Severe headache (8)
8 Set fire to (6)
9 Informed (4)
10 And not either (3)
11 Deduces (6)
13 Sprout (9)
15 From Nairobi, for example (6)
17 _ Danson, Cheers actor (3)
18 Information (4)
19 Young bird of prey (6)
20 Inclination (8)

DOWN

1 Makes less serious or painful (9)
2 Pressed clothes (6)
3 Sport played with clubs (4)
4 Varied egg (anag.) (9)
5 Taverns (4)
6 Japanese assassin (5)
7 Hired soldier (9)
12 Radio crackling (6)
14 Embankment (5)
15 Potter's oven (4)
16 Spun thread (4)

CHESS



WHITE TO PLAY

HINT: FORCE CHECKMATE.

Solution:
1. Qxf7ch! Rxf7 2. Rb8ch Rf8 3. R(either)xf8 mate.

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 14;

Very good 21;

Excellent 28 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

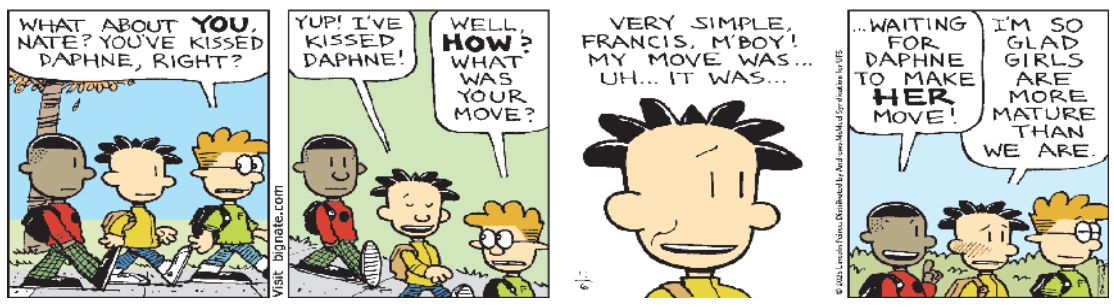
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

OVERBOARD

abed abode adobe adore adorer adverb bade bard bared barred bead beard board boarder bode booed border bored brad braved bread bred broad broader brood brooder dare dear debar derv doer door dove drab drove drover oared orbed order OVERBOARD overdo raved read redo road roadeo roared robed rode rodeo roed rood roved

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


WHAT ABOUT YOU, NATE? YOU'VE KISSED DAPHNE, RIGHT?
YUP! I'VE KISSED DAPHNE!
WELL, HOW? WHAT WAS YOUR MOVE?
VERY SIMPLE, FRANCIS, M'BOY! MY MOVE WAS... UH... IT WAS...
...WAITING FOR DAPHNE TO MAKE HER MOVE!
I'M SO GLAD GIRLS ARE MORE MATURE THAN WE ARE.
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

IT'S 5:00 AND CITIZENS ARE FIRED UP FOR TONIGHT'S JOUSTING MATCH!
THE CONTENDERS INCLUDE BRUCE THE FIERCE, RICHARD THE IRONCLAD... AND SIR RODNEY
WHICH REMINDS ME OF TONIGHT'S SPONSOR, THE GREATER ID ASSOCIATION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS
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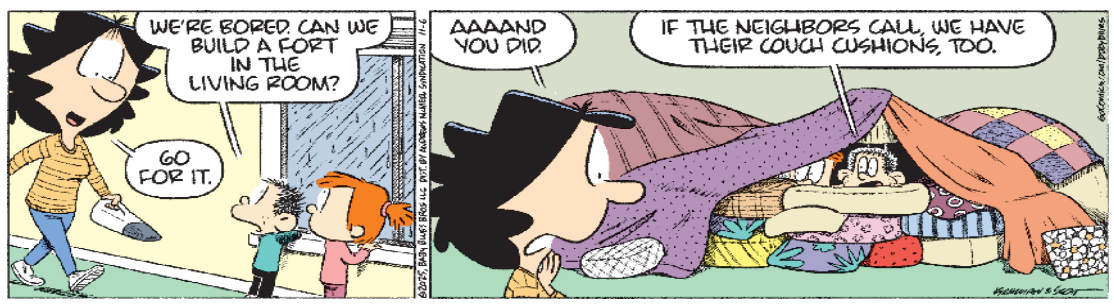
BABY BLUES


WE'RE BORED. CAN WE BUILD A FORT IN THE LIVING ROOM?
GO FOR IT.
AAAAND YOU DID.
IF THE NEIGHBORS CALL, WE HAVE THEIR COUCH CUSHIONS, TOO.

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:43pm	05:14pm	05:49pm	05:12pm	05:19pm	05:46pm
Sunrise	06:37am	06:28am	06:42am	06:21am	06:35am	06:46am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	13	28	Sunny	54	13	28	Sunny	13	26	Sunny
Hyderabad	14	33	Sunny	33	16	33	Sunny	15	33	Sunny
Islamabad	11	26	Sunny	60	11	26	Sunny	10	25	Sunny
Lahore	12	27	Sunny	52	13	28	Sunny	13	28	Sunny
Multan	14	29	Sunny	59	14	29	Sunny	14	29	Sunny
Peshawar	9	26	Sunny	43	10	26	Sunny	10	26	Sunny
Quetta	4	19	Sunny	31	3	18	Sunny	4	18	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
LOBBYING

(LOBBYING: LOB-ee-ing: Conducting activities aimed at influencing public officials.)

Average mark 17 words
Time limit 30 minutes

Can you find 27 or more words in LOBBYING?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — RIVETED

reed	teed	dieter
retie	tide	dire
revet	tied	dirt
ride	tier	dive
rite	tiered	diver
rive	tire	divert
rivet	tree	drive
veer	tried	
vier	deer	
edit	deet	
eider	derive	
ever	deter	
evert	diet	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

2 Cockatoo
9 Eclair
10 Trip
11 Ripe
13 Tenor
14 Neediness
16 Aglow
19 Tail
20 Wing
21 Sketch
22 Sorcerer.

DOWN

1 Detonates
3 Olive
4 Cape
5 Kittiwake
6 Thin
7 Oppose
8 Oversight
12 Legato
15 Elite
17 Liar
18 Ewer.

METRO EVENTS

PLAY

Dream Girl, a theatrical performance by Norway's Soky production, is held as part of the World Culture Festival, at Studio 2, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 8pm.

SEMINAR

A seminar on 'Bridging Academia and Industry: Empowering Future Innovators' at Iqra University, Airport campus, at 11:45am.

WORKSHOPS

'Integrating AI in Legal Practice', a workshop, at Jinnah Auditorium, City Courts, at 12noon.

A music workshop by Ustad Noor Bakhsh from Pakistan is held as part of the World Culture Festival at Studio 1, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 5pm.

A 'Coffee Candle Workshop' is organised at Habitt City at 5pm.

DISCUSSION

A discussion on Safdar Zaidi's fiction writing, under the aegis of Writers & Readers Caf , is held at the PMA House, Garden Road, at 5:30pm.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** Keep your eyes open, because this is a mildly accident-prone day. However, it's also a productive day, especially if you're making travel plans or dealing with business related to publishing, the media, medicine and the law. Look for ways to make improvements. Tonight: Discussions.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** You can get a lot done today, especially if you work in a bank or any kind of financial institution. Nevertheless, whatever you do, you have energy to burn! This is a good day to renegotiate loans, mortgages or redo agreements related to shared property. Tonight: Check your belongings.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** You might feel jittery and a bit impulsive this morning because the Moon in your sign will line up with unpredictable Uranus, which can trigger spontaneous reactions. Remind yourself to think before you act. Meanwhile, serious discussions with partners and close friends are intense. (Oh yeah.) Tonight: You win!

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** Roll up your sleeves and get busy. Today you will be especially productive at work. However, you will be just as productive with any task that you set for yourself today. Not only will you work hard, you will look for reforms and ways to do things better. Tonight: Seek privacy.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** This is a powerful day for all of you, but especially those of you in sports and the entertainment world. You can work effectively with others to accomplish your goals. Do something today that makes your wishes or objectives a stronger reality. Don't hesitate to dream big! Tonight: Be friendly.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** You couldn't pick a better day to work in cooperation with someone else to introduce improvements to your home. In particular, you might focus on plumbing areas or anything to do with laundry and bathrooms. Accept offers of assistance from anyone. Tonight: You're noticed.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** You're convincing in discussions with others today, which is why this is the time to rally your forces and set them marching. Make your pitch if you're in sales or marketing. Share your enthusiasm if you teach or coach. Others (especially from other cultures) will respond. Tonight: Explore and learn!

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** Issues related to finances or your possessions will be settled with firm resolve today. You will take the lead in expressing your needs and expectations, especially related to earnings, cash flow or something that you own. You're in charge! Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** You have tremendous gusto to accomplish what you want today because Mars in your sign is dancing beautifully with big daddy Pluto. This will encourage you to make new plans or improve old ones. You will work zealously toward your goals. Note: It's an excellent day to join forces with others. Tonight: Cooperate.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** Certain energy going on behind the scenes will affect you today. Secrets might be revealed. Research could show you something that allows you to move forward in a particular area that interests you. This morning, your work routine might change. Keep an eye on your pet. Tonight: Get organized.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

**** Teamwork will be productive for you today. This might be teamwork in sports, athletic workouts or professional teams helping you in your job or teaching and coaching others. Your confidence in reaching ambitious goals is high. Tonight: Socialize.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** Your ambition is strong today, which is why you won't hesitate to after what you want. Some of you are interested in travel or working with foreign countries. Publishing, the media, medicine and the law are also areas of interest. Don't hesitate to act. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Discovery play

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 7
♥ J 10 5
♦ A 10 8 4 2
♣ 8 7 6

WEST
♠ 9 6 5
♥ 9 8 6
♦ --
♣ A K 10 9 5 4 3

EAST
♠ J 8 4 3 2
♥ 3
♦ J 9 5 3
♣ Q J 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 10
♥ A K Q 7 4 2
♦ K Q 7 6
♣ --

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♣*	3 ♣	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
7 ♥			

*strong, artificial

Opening lead -- ace of clubs.

Assume you reach seven hearts on the bidding shown and West leads the ace of clubs, which you ruff. The contract seems very easy to make; the only conceivable complication is the possibility that one defender might have all four missing diamonds.

You begin by drawing trump, West turning up with three and East only one. You then have to decide whether it's better to start the diamond suit by first cashing the king or the ace. (Remember, you are assuming a 4-0 division because if the suit is divided 3-1 or 2-2, the grand slam is cold.)

To settle the question beyond the shadow of a doubt, you next cash the ace of spades, and when everyone follows suit, you know that playing a low diamond to the ace is certain to bring home the grand slam.

This is because West cannot have less than a six-card suit for his vulnerable three-club bid, and since he has already shown up with three hearts and a spade, he cannot hold four diamonds.

Sure enough, when you lead the diamond six to the ace, West shows out. You then continue with the deuce and trap East's J-9-5, whatever he does. If he plays the five, you finesse the seven; if he plays the nine instead, you win with the king, cross to the queen of spades and return the four of diamonds, gobbling up East's J-5 with your Q-7.

Ordinarily, when you hold K-Q-x-x opposite A-10-x-x-x, you would cash the king first -- and it would be easy to make that mistake here from force of habit. But in the present case -- where you hold the seven and eight in the two hands and also have the benefit of West's three-club bid -- cashing the ace first is clearly the correct play.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5231

3	4	2	9	1	7	6	8	5
8	1	9	6	2	5	4	3	7
5	7	6	8	4	3	9	1	2
6	3	8	7	5	9	1	2	4
9	5	1	2	8	4	7	6	3
4	2	7	1	3	6	5	9	8
1	9	5	3	7	2	8	4	6
2	6	4	5	9	8	3	7	1
7	8	3	4	6	1	2	5	9

Tricky — B5231

4	6	3	5	9	8	7	1	2
5	1	9	7	4	2	3	6	8
8	2	7	1	3	6	5	9	4
1	9	5	6	8	7	2	4	3
3	7	8	9	2	4	1	5	6
2	4	6	3	1	5	8	7	9
6	3	4	2	7	1	9	8	5
9	8	1	4	5	3	6	2	7
7	5	2	8	6	9	4	3	1